

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been rejected and are currently under consideration. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-12 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Leusink et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,302,057).

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 7 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Leusink et al. and Zhao et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,558,717).

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-12 would be allowable if claims 1 and 11 were amended as proposed by the Examiner. With this Response, the proposed amendments are submitted. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 1-12.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed. Should any other action be contemplated by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that he contacts the undersigned at (408) 392-9250 to discuss the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2257 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time and/or fee for additional claims, which may be required.

Filed Via EFS-Web

Respectfully submitted,



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